

Czech

Slovak

Sokol Minnesota



# SLOVO

January 2009 vol. 31 no. 1

## President Komentář/President's Note: 2008 in Review

By Joe Landsberger

*Greetings brothers and sisters/Pozdrav bratři a sestry*

I hope you indulge me this recollection of the past year. These photos reflect some favorite memories of the past year. Can you guess what event, who, when, etc.? The answers can be found on pages 4 and 5. For more detailed information, review the past year's Slovos on our website at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

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### Upcoming Events

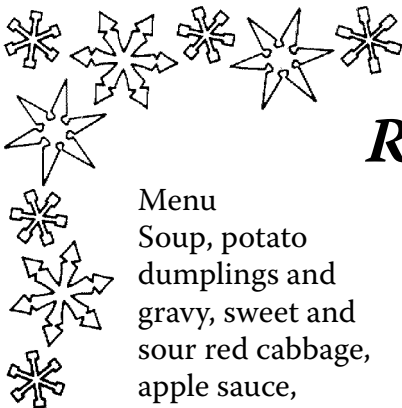
23 January,  
7 pm  
**Membership Meeting**

24 January,  
5 pm  
**Roast Duck Dinner**

31 January  
**Sokol Board Retreat**

20 February,  
7 pm  
**Šibřinky**  
(Czech Mardi Gras) Dance

**Collecting Now for Garage Sale**  
April 16-17



## 6th Annual Roast Duck Dinner

Saturday January 24, 2009  
5 p.m. - \$22.00 per person

Menu  
Soup, potato dumplings and gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, apple sauce, caraway rye bread, coffee and dessert. Tap beer and pop available for sale.



Limited seating; Pre-paid reservations only  
Send \$22 check Payable to Sokol Minnesota  
Before January 19 to Doreen McKenney  
7301 West 101st Unit 211  
Bloomington, MN 55438

952 941 0426

Historic CSPA Sokol Hall – 383 Michigan Avenue – St. Paul, Minnesota  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)



**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
2009 Board of Directors**

**President:**

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Denis Novak

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Jan Knudtson

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Louise Wessinger

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Jay Fonkert

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Cinnamon Whaley

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**Men's Physical Director:**

Norman Petrik

**Gambling Manager:**

Ken Wyberg

**Public Relations Director:**

Marit Lee Kucera

**SLOVO**

**Contributing Editor:**

Sharon Wyberg

**Copy Editor:** Open

**Business Manager:**

Ken Wyberg



At the December 9 Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors and members of its committees were recognized and installed. (l-r) Joe Landsberger, Dennis Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Marit Lee Kucera, Judy Aubrecht, Ed Hamernick, Joyce Tesarek, Denis Novak, Steve Shimer, Ken Wyberg, Jan Knudtson, Jay Fonkert, Cinnamon Whaley, Norm Petrik, Lloyd Krocak, Chuck Draheim.

**Donations: Thank you!**

Sokol Minnesota wishes to deeply acknowledge all donations as they are received. They are listed in two categories, Building Fund and General Operating Fund, though programs within each are not listed. Donations listed are grouped under \$100, \$100–499, \$500–999, and \$1,000–\$4,999, \$5,000+. Grants total \$37,000 in 2008 that we must match by 2009. We have identified and prioritized renovation and restoration goals that will cost over 1 million dollars, and we continue to write grants. The 2008 directors have made five year pledges with over \$45,000 promised by 2010, our CSPA Hall's 125 anniversary. Please consider making your 2008 or 2009 donation and pledge. If you wish to add the Building Fund to your will or trust, this may be exempt from estate and inheritance taxes. Thanks for all your support!

**Building Fund (matching our grant requirements):**

**\$5,000+:** Anonymous

**\$1,000+:** Joe Dolejsi, Joe Landsberger, Marit Lee Kucera

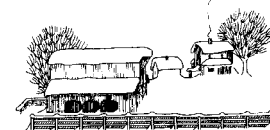
**\$100 - 499:** Anonymous (3), Hopkins Lodge #11, Jeanette Pafko, Cynthia Coulter, Gene Kubes, Roger Green, Valeria Kuisle, Gary & Mary Ann Novak, Richard Sargent, Ray Vanyo, Michael Wolesky, Irene Seashore

**To \$100:** Anonymous, Tillie Dolejsi, Hana Matousek, Bob Vanyo, Georgiana Dolejsi, Don & Katie Haselbauer, Florence Haselbauer, Jean & Larry Hall, Elsie Roepke, Richard & Sandra Saliny, John Cicha, Elsie Roepke, Jeff Martinka & Tessa Coons, C.A. Ruznacko, Bill & Angie Caldwell, Roberta Chandler, Arlene & Eugene Courneya, Anne Neubauer, Donald & Cheryl Mosevich, Josef & Libuse Ruzicka, Milan Sebek

**General Fund (general operations):**

**\$500 - 999:** St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

**To \$100: In memory of Al Garrison:** Erwin J. Utech, Richard & Louise Gilson, Miro & Shirley Verner, Kent & Marlene Hinshaw, Jim & Mary Chlebecek, Florence Haselbauer, Don & Katie Haselbauer, E. P. Holman, Louise & Chuck Wessinger, Al & Libby Imbrone, Norm Petrik & Joyce Tesarek, John & Mildred Grealish, Kenneth & Sharon Wyberg, Jay & Barb Fonkert, Anne Neubauer, Frank Loss, Phyllis Vosejпка, Don & Jeanette Pafko, Blanche & Violet Dvorak. **In memory of Richard & Pearl Houska:** Irene & Florence Seashore. **In memory of Sylvia (Stachota) Roushar,** Joyce Tesarek. **In memory of Frank Hamernik:** Ed Hamernick, Marcia Oltrugge.



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Send your suggestions digitally to [publicrelations@sokolmn.org](mailto:publicrelations@sokolmn.org), or call 651 290 0542!

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Visit us at:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## More Clues to the Meaning of Your Bohemian Village Name

By Ginger Simek, President Czechoslovak Genealogy Society

The linden tree (lipa) has long been associated with Bohemia. It is found everywhere in the Czech Republic and appears on the state seal. References to it are found in many place names: *Lipno* in Czech or *Lippen* in German with 3 derivations, and 54 occurrences. Another tree, the yew (*jiva*), with derivations occurs over 10 times in place names. One example would be Jivjany located in west Bohemia south of Střibro and north of Horšovský Týn. Soil conditions played a part in how places were named. *Slatina* means swampy place; boggy ground. *Slatina* and its derivatives appear in place names in Bohemia, Moravia, as well as in the Slovak Republic. In older times settlements established on swampy, marshy land offered some protection from enemies. The related adjective *blatná* means swampy, filthy village which does not sound very complimentary. By adding the suffix, -ice it becomes a noun or Blatnice. There are over 20 locations in Bohemia with parts of the root word blatná/bláto in their name.

These are just a few examples taken from a publication in the CGSI library titled *The Place Names of Bohemia; Their History, Derivation and Meaning* translated by Karen Hobbs from published articles by Paul Brostean and Dr. Ernst Richter –with also a little help from Google. Listing of CGSI library resources on the website [www.cgisi.org](http://www.cgisi.org)



## Sokol MN prepares for Texas Slet

By Norm Petrik, Men's Fitness Director

The American Sokol Slet will be in Ft. Worth, Texas Friday and Saturday June 26-27. Sokol Minnesota will prepare its participation, first and third Mondays, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall beginning January 5th. The program includes Senior II Calisthenics and Let Loose, an All Participant Finale. Doreen McKenney will again be our instructor as she has been for several Slets and she has done an excellent job! Sokol Minnesota participated in the last World Wide Slet in Prague in 2006, and in the American Sokol Slet in Chicago in 2005. World Wide Slets

In a note to Georgiana Dolejsi, Arlene and Henry Pokorny of Hopkins, MN write that this photo of the 1935 Slet in Grant Park, Chicago has been “kicking around our family for many years” and hopes it finds a good home in Sokol Minnesota’s collection.

are every six years, and American Sokol Slets are every four years. The Senior II Calisthenics is for groups of nine adults, three men and six women. There is movement to music and the groups cover the football field with the same movements. The songs are entitled To our Maidens, Coming to America and America the Beautiful. The whole movement lasts about 10 minutes. The Let Loose finale is more

active and for persons of all ages, with young people having different and more active parts than the adults. I invite you to join us, we have had lots of fun. Questions? Call 612 822-6147, or email [normpetrik@aol.com](mailto:normpetrik@aol.com)

*Editor's note:*

*What is a “slet?”*

*What is a “prostna?”*

*February's Slovo will provide the answers with our history of participation!*

## Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant Celebrates 20 Years

April 4 marks the 20th anniversary of the Miss Czech Slovak MN Pageant, encouraging and promoting young women to perpetuate our heritage, culture and traditions. In light of this special occasion we will honor past royalty as well as celebrate! The pageant started in 1989 with the first queen Constance (David) Will, who went on to win the

Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant.

The call is out for contestants for the 2009 pageant. Girls must be single, ages 16-26, a Minnesota resident or attending a state accredited school, and of Czech, Slovak or Moravian descent. Judging is in four areas: personal interview, talent, kroj or folk dress, and on-stage interview. The newly crowned Miss Czech Slovak Queen receives a cash award and a chance to compete in the Miss Czech-Slovak USA pageant.

### 20th Annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant

April 4, 2009, American Legion Club, Montgomery, Minnesota

For information/application: Lorraine David, 507-364-5384 [davidsdiner@hotmail.com](mailto:davidsdiner@hotmail.com) or Ashely Vlasak, 952-201-4107

Deadline for entering is March 1, 2009.

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- 1. Greeters Mary Jo and Jim Chlebec, April 6 125th Sokol anniversary
- 2. Circa 1887 CSPPS Hall artist's rendition, CSPPS Hall archive discovery and conservation project, January to present.
- 3. Czech Ambassador Dr. Petr Kolář and Phyllis Vosejпка, September 19 reception and installation of Honorary Consul Robert Vanasek, recognition of retiring Dr. Josef Mestenhauer.
- 4. Clean-up crew, sausages and one beer, November 23 Pancake Breakfast.
- 5. Combined gymnasts, children and teen dance groups led by Louise Wessinger, December 5 Christmas Party

- 6. \$22,000 St Paul Star Grant (May 19), as well as an \$8,000 Minnesota Historical Society grant (May 16) for installation of fire protection in CSPPS Hall
- 7. Lex-Ham Community Theater co-produces Václav Havel's *Memorandum* with Sokol MN and CSCC, March 9-11

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8. The elegant 1920's style Charlotte Januschka, "Dressed to Kill" Mystery Dinner Theater fund raiser, November 1, raised \$2,000 for flood relief for our sister unit, Sokol Cedar Rapids.

9. Composite photo of the Czech and Slovak Festival, September 21

10. Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek, Sokol Food booth, Festival of Nations, May 1-3

11. Constructing Vánočka, December 17: Hana Matousek demonstrates braiding to baker Jeremy Trnka

12. Drs. Martin Butora and Zora Butorova of the Slovak Republic on their visit, October 11

13. Serving the Duck Dinner, Kat Nelson, Joan Sedlacek, Joe Landsberger, Doreen McKenney (chair), Jan Knudtson, January 26

14. Archival display, April 6 125th Sokol anniversary

15. Installation of Bob Vanasek as Honorary Consul, Sept 11

16. Bob Vanasek and Georgiana Dolejsi's Černín Palace Memorial Bronze Medal and Diploma, November 9

17. Sokol Minnesota receives the Community Education Award from the St. Paul Heritage Preservation, May 13

18. Clean-up crew, Czech and Slovak Festival, Sept. 21. Commission

*Best of the new year from the contributors of the Slovo!*



## Reflections on Reflections

By Josef A. Mestenhauser

Nothing is simple nowadays, not even reflections on last year, the theme of this issue of Slovo. The problem is that each time I reflect on an event, it has an antecedent that, in turn, has another. Hence the title - "reflections on reflections". For example, one of the most memorable events of last year was the invitation to attend the first ever meeting of all Czech Honorary Consuls from around the world held in the memorable Černin Palace. I used to visit this incredible building during my student days in Prague because I was interested in joining the Czechoslovak diplomatic service after graduation from the Charles University. This brought the memories of the February '48 communist putsch, the death of Jan Masaryk, my escape, and eventually a new life in a new country. I stood at the place where Masaryk's body was found, and wondered how different things may have been had he resigned his post along with other non-communist ministers, an event that may have permitted national elections in which I would have been on the ballot representing university students. I was not supposed to be invited, having officially retired from the position of the Honorary Consul on May 9th in order for Robert Vanasek to be invited. However, Ambassador Kolař fought for an exception that made it possible for both of us to go – for which I am exceptionally grateful.

Retiring from the Honorary Consulate gave me another reason to reflect on the ten years I had one leg in the diplomatic service, one leg in my academic field, international education, and one leg in everything else. My mother was convinced that I was born with three legs, all kicking vigorously at birth, presumably to get faster run on life. All three legs are still kicking: instead of the Honorary Consulate, I am remaining active in Sokol's building drive and in the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and still give guest lectures, advise students, and consult with universities around the world on meeting the requirements of global knowledge.

The "third leg" is my metaphor for "knowledge". I made more trips to Prague last year; each time I find bookstores and publishers exploding with new titles bringing insights and information that remains largely unnoticed to most of us. An example is a new book about the exceptional support provided by American Sokol to Tomas G. Masaryk – support that is nowhere to be found today.

The new knowledge is so extensive that it creates an information overload, prompting one writer to claim that the changes in the world place an incredible pressure on our cognitive resources that we have difficulties absorbing. Yet our brains are capable of absorbing more than we do, if we keep on learning and thus re-training our brains. We face a "knowledge gap" between what we know and what we should know, that calls for a program that fills that gap. Such program, modeled on a similar effort of the National Library and Museum in Cedar Rapids. is now being planned and will offer a series of seminar/lectures on the meaning of the Twentieth Century. Watch for announcements soon.

Reflections focus on the past, yet it is the future in which we will spend the rest of our lives. Consequently they are relevant to the future over which we might have some control.

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## Sokol MN Winter Language Programs 2009

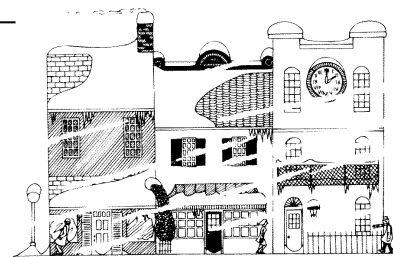
All classes 8 weeks, 7-8:30 p.m. in CSPS Hall; \$55.00

(Sokol members) \$70.00 (non-members)

Minimum six, maximum ten students in each class.

Registration required: [www.sokolmn.org/education.shtml](http://www.sokolmn.org/education.shtml)

Call Education Chair 651-452-6240/sokolmn.org to order text books.



### **Czech Language Class---Beginner Level,** 2 classes offered:

Mondays beginning Jan 5: Instructor: Jakub Dajc

Wednesdays beginning Jan 7: Instructor: Jakub Dajc

*Hrou* text plus cassettes (\$60)/Workbook (\$45)

### **Slovak Language Class---Beginner Level**

Thursdays beginning Jan 8: Instructor: Barborka

Carlsonova; Slovak Language text, workbook & phrase book (\$57.00)

### **Czech Language Class--Advanced Beginner Level**

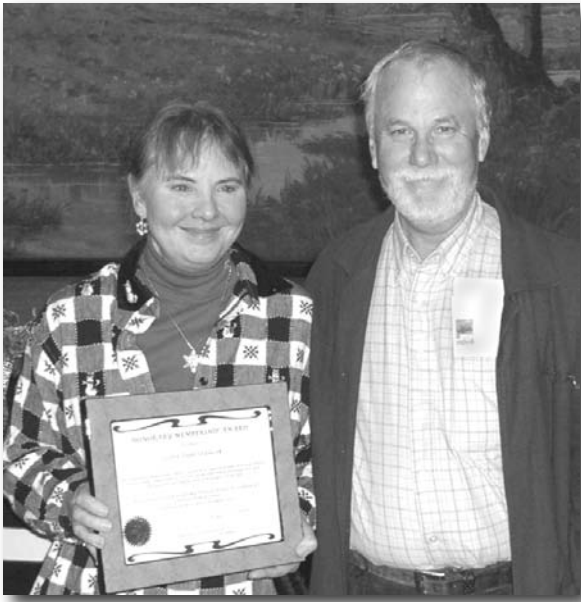
Wednesdays beginning Jan 7: Instructor: Blanka Brichta;  
*Hrou* Text/Workbook as before

### **Czech Language Class---Intermediate Level**

Tuesdays beginning Jan 6: Instructor: Jitka Sebek  
Czech Language Text/Workbook as before

### **Slovak Language Interest Group**

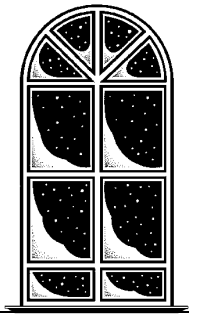
Please call instructor at 763-300-3782



Sister Joan Sedlacek (l) was presented the Honorary Member Plaque by Brother President Joe Landsberger at its December Membership Meeting December 7, 2008

I don't know the names of my heroes. Many are only remembered in their units by a few "old timers." To the younger or new members, they are a name on a list or a nameless picture on the wall. They weren't officers or outstanding teachers. They were never champions or leaders. These special nameless Sisters and Brothers were and are the faithful followers. They are the ones who work in the kitchens so the teachers can be on the floor. They are the ones who work in the bar so the musicians can be on the stage. They are the ones who were never great athletes, but they kept the gym classes full and were the masses in the calisthenics. They weren't the lead actors on the stage, but they were the ones who cleaned the building and set up the chairs that made a gym into a theater. They made the costumes, sold the tickets, changed the scenery and sat in the audience. They are the followers who made the leaders, the competitors who made the champions, the classes who made the teachers. They are the proof of Not for Profit or Glory. We need teachers and champions. We cannot exist without those who are willing to step forward and take charge. By the same token, we would not have come as far as we have, not will go as far into the

future as we wish without the cooks and bakers, the teacher helpers and drivers, the bartenders and floor scrubbers, those who come early to set up and stay late to take down and put away. The ones always counted on and never failing and all the quiet, dedicated unsung heroes. Their names were and are, SOKOL.



## Song of the Month:

Georgiana Dolejsi

Two girls were walking on the road  
and two foresters met them.

"Where are you girls going?"  
"Which one of you will be mine?"

The small one--she is mine; she has eyes  
as I have;

She has garnets on her neck  
and between them are gold coins

How will I do it? I will come for her with  
four black horses as a farmer goes to the  
mill.

November song correction:

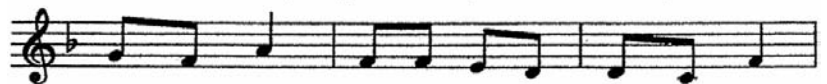
The song's title is  
*Karličku Můj*

## Šly panenky silnicí

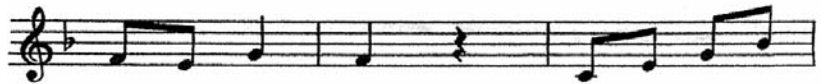
Vesele - Happily



1. Šly pa-nen-ky sil-ni-ci, sil-ni-ci,  
2. Ta ma-lič-ka, ta je má, ta je má,  
3. Jak-pak já to vy-ve-du? vy-ve-du?



sil-ni-ci, pot-ka-li je my-sliv-ci,  
ta je má, ta má o-či, ja-ko já,  
vy-ve-du? Já si pro ni při-je-du



my-sliv-ci dvě: kam pa-nen-ky,  
ja-ko já mám. Na kr-ku má  
při-je-du tam. Čty-rma koň-ma



kam jde-te, kam jde-te, kam jde-te?  
gra-na-ty, gra-na-ty, gra-na-ty,  
vra-nej-ma, vra-nej-ma, vra-nej-ma,



Kte-rá z vás to bu-de-te, bu-de-te má.  
me-zi ni-mi du-ká-ty, du-ká-ty jsou.  
ja-ko sed-lák do mlej-na, do mlej-na je-de.



## Sister Joan Sedlacek made *Sokol Honorary Member*

*Editor's note: On Sunday, December 7, 2008 Sister Joan Sedlacek was made an Honorary Member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, reflecting contributions over 32 years of service. This is a summary of Sis. Jeanette Pafko's presentation of Sis. Sedlacek's service.*

Since her induction in December 1976 Sister Joan Sedlacek has served our unit in many capacities. She has:



- Served as First Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, Women's Director, Educational Director, Board of Trustees with volunteer work throughout the hall planting trees, painting walls and refinishing floors and generally keeping the facility in good order besides generously donating time and monies to various construction projects.
- Participated in calisthenics and many Slets throughout the US and world, including Fort Worth, Chicago, Omaha, Montreal, Toronto, Vienna, Indianapolis, Prague, and the first Slovak Sokol Slet in Kosice, Slovakia.
- Lectured widely on Sokol programs and halls including the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, and has organized cultural displays for the Centennial and 125th celebrations, and compiled comprehensive list of Sokol units and buildings and collected photos of buildings in the US and Czech Republic and Slovak Republic.
- Chaired and worked dinners and festivals, including the Festival of Nations food and culture booths, as well as the gift shop
- Rewrote the Sokol educational manual and children's calisthenics program, taught the "Tots" (and even was a member of a class!), served as camp and junior counselor, and Venture Scout advisor.
- Served as Western District historian, and the American Sokol Organization as Membership Chair and Educational Director. She represented Sokol Minnesota at the American Sokol 125th Anniversary, Sokol New York 125th Anniversary, Sokol West Suburban 25th Anniversary.

*continued on page 7*



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